

exact age, that would be more than 60 years ago. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II. In 1950, at the outbreak of the Korean war, he interrupted his studies of law to return to Active military duty. Similar to so many who served our country in that period—and I meet them all the time in Connecticut, particularly World War II veterans, the ones, for instance, whose families will call and say: My dad or my grandfather thinks he may have been entitled to a medal, but he never got it—they rushed back after the war to return to their families and to their work. We check the records. In almost every case, in fact, these veterans of World War II deserve medals. In almost every case, when we give them to them, as I have had the honor to do on many occasions, the veterans of World War II will say: I didn't want this for myself. I wanted it for my grandchildren. Then they almost always say: I am no hero, I am an ordinary American called to serve our country in a time of crisis.

The truth is, these veterans and those who followed them in succeeding conflicts, including the distinguished occupant of the chair, may each think of themselves as ordinary Americans but, in fact, together they have protected America's security, saved our freedom. Those veterans of World War II defeated the threats of fascism and Naziism. Think about what the world would be like if our enemies in World War II had triumphed and think about the extraordinary period of progress and economic growth that followed after the successful conclusion of World War II.

JOHN WARNER was part of that. His service continued. In 1969, he was appointed Under Secretary of the Navy. From 1972 to 1974, he served as Secretary of the Navy. Throughout the rest of his career, including his long, distinguished, and productive service on the Senate Armed Services Committee, JOHN WARNER has shown unwavering support for the men and women of the Armed Forces and, of course, in a larger sense, unwavering support for the security of America and the ideal of freedom which was the animating impulse and purpose that motivated Jefferson and all the other Founders to create America, a country created on an ideal, with a purpose, with a mission, with a destiny. JOHN WARNER has always understood that. The fact that he is a Virginian is part of that understanding.

It has been my great honor to serve with JOHN WARNER in the Senate, particularly on the Armed Services Committee, where over the years I have come to work with him. Senator WARNER is a great gentleman, a word that can be used lightly but belongs with Senator WARNER, a person of personal grace, of civility, of honor, of good humor, someone who in his service here has always looked for the common ground. As all of us know, when we make an agreement with JOHN WAR-

NER, even on the most controversial circumstance, his word sticks. He keeps the agreement, no matter how difficult the political crosscurrent may be. He has had an extraordinary record of productive service to America and to Virginia.

One of the things I cherish is that in 1991, after Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, I was asked to join with Senator WARNER in January of 1991 to cosponsor the resolution which authorized the Commander in Chief to take military action to push Saddam Hussein and Iraqi forces out of Kuwait which they, of course, did successfully, heroically, and with great effect on the stability and future of the Middle East. It turned out that in 2003, when it came time again for the Senate to decide whether we were prepared to authorize yet another Commander in Chief to take military action to overthrow Saddam Hussein—and I don't need to talk about the causes for which we argued for that case—Senator WARNER asked me if I would join him again as a cosponsor. It was a great honor for me to do that, and it passed overwhelmingly with a bipartisan vote.

In a very special way, notwithstanding this kind of work and work we did together, for instance, to establish the Joint Forces Command, located in Norfolk, VA, to make real the promise of joint war fighting that was inherent to the Goldwater-Nichols legislation but was not quite realized, I worked with Senator WARNER and Senator Coats, a former colleague from Indiana, to accomplish that.

Fresh in my mind and expressive of the range of JOHN WARNER's interest and of his commitment to the greater public good was the fact that at the beginning of this session of Congress, he sought to become the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Climate Change of the Environment Committee, which I was privileged to about to be chair of. We talked about the problem. JOHN didn't, as this challenge to mankind has taken shape, rush to the front of it. He was skeptical. He listened. He read. He concluded the planet is warming, that it represents a profound threat to the future of the American people, people all around the globe, and that it represents a threat to our national security, which has been the animating, driving impulse of his public service. We talked and decided to join together. I call it the Warner-Lieberman Climate Security Act; he calls it the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act, which is a measure of the relationship we have had and his graciousness. Without his cosponsorship, we would not have gotten it out of subcommittee, first time ever. We wouldn't have gotten it out of the Environment Committee, first time ever reported favorably on this important challenge to the Senate floor. We wouldn't have been able to achieve the support of 54 Members of the Senate, the first time a majority of Members of the Senate said we have to do some-

thing about global warming, including our colleagues, Senator MCCAIN and Senator OBAMA, which means the next President will be a proactive leader and partner with Congress in the effort to do something about climate change. It wouldn't have happened without the support of JOHN WARNER, a final extraordinary act of leadership by this great Senator.

He has a lot of great years left in him. I hope we can find a way for him to continue to be part of the work all of us have to do: One, to keep our country secure—and there is no one with more expertise and a more profound commitment to that—and, two, to get America to assume its proper leadership role in the global effort to curb global warming.

He is a dear friend, a great man. It has been a wonderful honor to serve with him. I pray he and his wife and all his family, beloved children and grandchildren, will be blessed by God with many more good years together.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time of the majority has expired.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. I ask unanimous consent for an additional moment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BAILOUT

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish to say how pleased and, frankly, relieved I am that the negotiators have reached an agreement on the economic rescue plan for our country. I found, as people began to be terribly anxious, justifiably, around our country, about their life savings, about their businesses, about their jobs, I was getting two messages from the public. One was their fear that we would not act to rescue our economy and them, and then their second fear was about what we would do to rescue our economy and them. The negotiators have both come up with a plan that will rescue our economy, will protect our taxpayers. In it, I am proud to say, is a proposal somewhat similar to one that Senator CANTWELL and I put forward for a 9/11-type commission to review the regulations of our financial institutions, to reform them so we learn from this crisis and, to the best of our ability, we make sure it never happens again.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Dakota.

TAX EXTENDERS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we are at a place, in terms of the legislative calendar, where there are lots of things piled up and not much time to get them done. I am reminded of something someone once said: In the legislative process, you can't allow the perfect to become the enemy of the good, in a place where you are lucky if the adequate even survives.